

# NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



Progress Report
Winter 2012

#### Administrator's Corner

Greetings,

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) is committed to increasing the public's participation and enjoyment of healthy outdoor activities such as of hiking, horseback riding, camping, canoeing, kayaking, OHV use, biking, and the use of the NPNHT Auto Tour Routes for motorcycles, bicyclers, and RVer's. We are committed to conducting outreach through educational materials and other mediums such as posters, desk planners, postcards, brochures, displays, videos, YouTube, Flickr, and Virtual Tours on our website.

We extend the invitation to experience the great diversity of landscapes and ecosystems that comprise the NPNHT.

A rich tapestry of cultures and peoples including stories from pioneers, settlers, news correspondents, military cavalry, merchants, and those struggling for freedom all make the Trail story come to life.



NPNHT Administrator Sandi McFarland, along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail at Carver's Gap on the Pisgah-Cherokee National Forest located on the border with North Carolina and Tennessee.

Rediscover the natural and cultural wonders that await you along the NPNHT. We would welcome you as a volunteer to the trail during your next family vacation. It will be a recipe for memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. You will be a part of the legacy to protect and preserve by creating citizen stewards while being a part of a shared history. We offer a variety of opportunities to volunteer under programs for youth development, trail restoration, visitor services, education programs, trail patrols, trash removal, interpretation, tourism, and more. There are a number of ways to become a volunteer. The American Hiking Society offers volunteer vacations. The Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of America assist youth in activities across the Nation. The Forest Service offers volunteer agreements (contact us), sponsored volunteer agreements, and National Trails Day in partnership with the American Hiking Society.

Thanks to all those who have volunteered over the years to embody values of beauty, diversity, community, and volunteerism and to all that will volunteer in the future.

"Everyone of us makes a difference every day. Everyone has a role to play." Dr. Jane Goodall

Sandi McFarland, Administrator NPNHT

# Update on the Revision of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan

By the time you read this, we will have completed 19 public workshops seeking input on the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) revision for the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT). The majority of the workshops have been well attended and we have engaged in great dialogue along the trail route. To date we have received well over 900 comments that focus on a variety of management topics about the NPNHT. The primary topic categories are:

- Natural Resources
- Tribal Relations
- Community Engagement
- History of NPNHT events
- Ownership along trail
- Interpretive/Education
- Miscellaneous management and administrative tasks

The vast majority of comments discuss opportunities for developing and growing the trail into the future. We have met numerous individuals, groups, and community organizations who would like to partner with the NPNHT in the future. One of the first things we hear is how everyone would like to see more presence along the trail to assist in developing a local ownership in the trail. Another theme throughout our workshops has been focused on getting youth involved in the NPNHT. If you want to look at a synopsis of the comments to date please visit the <a href="CMP revision page">CMP revision page</a> on the NPNHT website, then click on public participation, and there you will find the synopsis.

During this same time frame as the workshops, we have been meeting with tribal nations along the NPNHT. The tribes have provided much needed input to the team. To date, we have met with the members of the following tribes: Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and Chippewa-Cree Tribe.

We have talked with members of the Blackfeet Tribe, Fort Belknap Tribe, Fort Peck Tribe, Crow Tribe, and Northern Cheyenne Tribe. We hope to meet with them during the next year to discuss the CMP revision. We will also be starting discussions with at least four more tribes this year.

The next step for the CMP revision work will be to take all the comments and input to date to develop the purpose and need statement for the Environmental Impact Statement. We will be working on this over the winter and hope to have the Notice of Intent to start the formal process in the Federal Register later this year.

We will continue to take comments and input throughout the CMP revision process. So if you want to provide input or comment, please feel free to email me at <a href="mailto:jmolzahn@fs.fed.us">jmolzahn@fs.fed.us</a> or call me at 406-826-4352.

Julie Molzahn, CMP Revision Team Leader



CMP revision workshop, Nespelem, WA, February 02, 2012

#### Nez Perce National Historic Trail Brochure Available Soon

The NPNHT will be soon be releasing an updated version of the Trail's general brochure. The current edition, printed last year, was widely received and 5,000 copies have been distributed in the past year. The brochure includes more information about those Nez Perce who escaped to Canada, were exiled in Kansas and Oklahoma, and the interment of Red Heart's Band at Fort Vancouver in Washington Territory.

The new brochure folds into a format the same size as the current Trail Auto Tour brochures, which should make it easier to display in brochure racks.

Thanks to the staff from *Recreation Solutions*, Nez Perce National Historic Park, Nez Perce Tribe, Nez Perce Trail Foundation, and other partners for helping with updates and creating this outstanding product to help share the Trail story.

A downloadable version is available on the Trail's website.

This brochure is currently at the printer and hard copies should be available in early March. If you would like copies, please contact Trail Public Affairs Specialist Roger Peterson at 406-329-3540 or rmpeterson@fs.fed.us

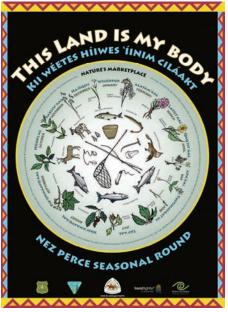


#### 2012 Nez Perce National Historic Trail Desk Planners Distributed

The annual desk planner arrived in early December and just as quickly the 5,000 planners went back out the door and up on walls across the region, and country, along with a few requests from overseas.

Thanks again to the staff of *Recreation Solutions* who helped with design, layout, and printing; Angel Sobotta of the Nez Perce Language Program who provided Nez Perce names for inclusion in the Planner; and Wilfred "Scotty" Scott from the Nez Perce Tribe who provided information on the annual commemorations; and our partners at Washington State University, Yellowstone National Park, and Nez Perce National Historical Park who provided images.

We have a few left. If you would like a copy please contact Trail Public Affairs Specialist Roger Peterson at 406-329-3540 or <a href="mailto:rmpeterson@fs.fed.us">rmpeterson@fs.fed.us</a>



### Trails Annual Poster Available Soon

The next installment in NPNHT Annual Posters will be available in the next few weeks. This year's full color poster entitled "This Land is My Body" features the Nez Perce Seasonal Round which identifies the months and seasons of gathering and animals. The posters are scheduled to arrive from the printer in early March.

Thanks to staff from the Idaho BLM who provided the artwork and to the staff of *Recreation Solutions* who helped with the final design, layout, and printing, and also to Angel Sobotta of the Nez Perce Language Program who provided Nez Perce names for poster.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please contact Trail Public Affairs Specialist Roger Peterson at 406-329-3540 or rmpeterson@fs.fed.us

# NPNHT Video Landscape of History Now Available Via YouTube

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Working with staff from the US Forest Service Northern Regions Public and Governmental Relations office the video Landscapes of History, which tells the story of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, is now available on YouTube via the NPNHT website. The 20 min video was originally produced in the early 1990's with revisions in 1997 and 2004. In that time thousands of copies have been distributed national and internationally. Having the video available via streaming media online makes it easily accessible to anyone interested in learning about the NPNHT and also to educators who can now download the video for use with their students.

THE NET Proce (Net-Mr. Roof)
National Historic trail

You can still request a copy of the DVD by contacting NPNHT staff.

# Peoples of the Plateau: The Indian Photographs of Lee Moorhouse, 1898-1915, Vol. 2 by Steven L. Grafe, Paula Richardson Fleming

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The remarkable photographs in *Peoples of the Plateau* capture the lives of Pacific Northwest Indians at the turn of the twentieth century—and at a turning point in their own history.

The Columbia River Plateau, in the interior Pacific Northwest, was populated for centuries by the Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Cayuse Indians. By the late nineteenth century, after the U.S. government had confined these peoples to a single reservation, their lives began to change irrevocably. Major Lee Moorhouse, a businessman and former militia officer, served as an Indian agent during this period. Believing that the Indians he encountered were a "dying race," Moorhouse was driven to collect their artifacts and, for posterity, take their photographs.



Although he was not a professional photographer, Moorhouse produced more than 9,000 glass-plate negatives, one-third with Indians as his subjects. Although his works to some degree reflect a stereotypical view, they are an invaluable aid for tribal researchers and historians because they identify their subjects by name.

This book marks the first major examination of Moorhouse and his work. Featuring eighty exquisite plates, it not only showcases Moorhouse's extensive photographs but also tells the story of the man—about whom little is known—and of the world in which he lived and worked.



# Reprint of Nez Perce National Historic Trail Map

The staff of the NPNHT is in the early phases of revising, updating, and reprinting the current Trail Visitor Map. We have begun work with the Forest Service's Northern Region Cartographic office.

The current map became available in the summer of 2010. At that time a limited number of maps were printed. The map has been well received and at the current sales rate we estimate we will exhaust the supply sometime in the next 12-18 months.

These maps can still be purchased, for \$10, at local agency offices and Interpretive Association bookstores along the NPNHT and online from the <u>National Forest Store</u> and <u>Discover Your Northwest</u>.

# George B. Hatley, "Mr. Appaloosa" and the NPNHT

The following information was provided by Gene Merrell, of the Appaloosa Horse Club

After reading the obituary of George Hately in the Fall NPNHT Progress Report I feel it would be nice if the contribution George Hatley made to helping establish the National Trail would be acknowledged in more detail. Below is the language from a sign posted at the Appaloosa Horse Club that explains more about his role. George was modest when he gave credit to the club, but those that really know, understand it was really him that promoted it so strongly!

#### **Chief Joseph Trail Ride**

The Chief Joseph Trail Ride pays observance to an historic event while also celebrating the fortitude of the Appaloosa horse. The oldest of four trail rides sponsored by the Appaloosa Horse Club, this 1170 mile trek retraces the route taken by the Nez Perce and their Appaloosas during their flight from the US Army in 1877.

The first trail ride began June 28, 1965. Forty riders and their Appaloosas participated in the event, originally conceived by George Hatley and several fellow Appaloosa Club members. Since that date, interest and participation in the ride has increased into the hundreds. This number has included riders from several foreign countries. People are attracted to the ride for the comradery of the event but are also drawn by their shared love shared for the Appaloosa horse and the history it represents. From that first ride to the present the history of the Nez Perce (Nee Me Poo) Trail plays an important part of the ride.

Each year riders retrace in sequence about a 100-mile segment of the historic trail. Completing the trail from its start at Joseph, OR, to the end at Bear Paw Battlefield, MT, takes thirteen years. To ride the entire length has become a particular point of pride for riders and their Appaloosa horse.

#### Role of the Appaloosa Horse Club in establishing the Nez Perce National Trail

By 1975 riders of the Chief Joseph Appaloosa Trail Ride were asking about national recognition for the Nez Perce Trail. George Hatley, then Executive Secretary of the Appaloosa Horse Club, helped encourage the congressional delegations of Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Wyoming to sponsor a bill to study the feasibility of recognizing the Nez Perce Trail. The bill to study the trail was passed in 1976. In a letter of appreciation to Hatley, Senator Frank Church started:

"The effort on behalf of the Nee Me Poo Trail would not have been possible without the assistance of the Appaloosa Horse Club, Inc., and its many members both in Idaho and throughout the United States and the cooperation of the Nez Perce Indian Tribe."

When the Nez Perce Historic Trail was finally dedicated on July 19, 1991, the event was attended by George Hatley and his wife Iola and Bob Peckinpah, past president and director of the Appaloosa Horse Club. (*Riding the Nez Perce War Trail Twice*, George Hatley, 2004)



#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- March, 2012—Winter Storyteller Series at Travelers Rest State Park, see their website for details.
- March 16-18, 2012—Epeetes Pow Wow, Lapwai, ID
- April 21, 2012 Red Heart Band Memorial, Vancouver, WA
- May 14-18, 2012 Historic Trails Workshop, Albuquerque/Socorro, NM, more information: www.pnts.org
- June 2, 2012—National Trails Day
- June 9, 2012—National Get Outdoors Day
- June 15-17, 2012 Chief Joseph & Warriors Pow Wow, Lapwai, ID
- June 17, 2012—White Bird Battle Memorial, White Bird, ID
- July 20-22, 2012 Annual Nez Perce Tamkaliks Celebration, Wallowa, OR
- August 11, 2012—Big Hole Battle Memorial, Wisdom, MT
- September 29, 2012—National Public Lands Day
- October 6, 2012—Bear Paw Battle Memorial, Chinook, MT
- April 14-17, 2013—21st American Trails International Trails Symposium, Scottsdale/Fountain Hills, AZ

#### The Nez Perce Tribe, A Navajo, and a Cultural Renaissance

By Amelia Pang On January 3, 2012 Epoch Times

Janet Kern is on the brink of completing her Nez Perce film, "Horse Tribe." Due to financial struggles, the film has been in the making for 10 years. But this inconvenience may have turned into a boon.

"If I hadn't stayed with the story and concluded it at a different time..." said Kern, a documentary journalist.

She would have missed "the choices the players made, which illuminates human nature in a way that is complex, full of nuance, struggle, and humane— more than a story of simple success."

The film is based on the process of the modern Nez Perce tribe getting back their horses, a cultural core, after losing everything during a war with the U.S.

The only Nez Perce reservation is in Lapwai, Idaho, of the Pacific North West. They have been recognized for centuries as one of America's greatest horse tribes.



Nez Perce man on horseback, wearing loin cloth and moccasins. (Edward S. Curtis/Public Domain)

Gen. W.T. Sherman, a Civil War general, called the epic battle "the most extraordinary of Indian wars." In 1877, the U.S. Army chased the Nez Perce for 1,300 miles, losing every battle except the last.

According to Kern, the Nez Perce's initial success and victories were due to their "superior knowledge of horses and how to travel with them." But after losing the last skirmish, the government took away their most valuable weapon, their horses.

The "epic story boils down to a heroic, but deeply flawed main character,"—Rudy Shebala, a Navajo who married a Nez Perce and crossbred a new breed of horses, "The Nez Perce horse."

This marked the return of horses for the tribe.

"In the long run if we had the horse culture back, it would do so many good things for our people. [That culture] is associated with hard work and ethics that would prompt the revitalization of our culture entirely," said Aaron Miles, the natural resource manager of the Nez Perce tribe.

According to Kern, the Nez Perce has always had a "romantic affiliation" with the Appaloosa, most commonly known as the spotted horse. Shebala crossbred the Appaloosa with a rare breed called the Akhal-Teke—only 2,000 exist in the world. The crossbreed created a more narrow kind of horse, easier to ride and grip.

As a part of breeding horses, Shebala also created the Nez Perce Horse Registry, a systematic way to register horses and keep track of which horses are owned, along with how they are bred.

Shebala is "charismatic, sometimes temperamental, and a brilliant horseman," Kern said. Cont. on next page

He convinced a Minnesotan man to move his four rare stallions to Idaho for the Nez Perce's breeding use. Shebala was also "spearheaded" in getting the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) to raise \$2.3 million to fund the Nez Perce horse registry, over the course of the nine years that he was in charge.

"He was very much the driving force behind the energy and success of the horse program. But he succumbed to his personal demons and got a DUI," said Kern. Shebala was then dismissed by the tribal council from his position as director of the Nez Perce horse registry.

It was a controversial dismissal. Some felt that a Navajo should not have been running the Horse Registry, while others felt he was vital to the success of the Registry.

"It was difficult to keep the program going [after Shebala left]. It continues operation on a modified scale," Kern said.

It costs \$300,000 a year to transport, feed, water, inoculate, and fence the horses. Without Shebala's help, the "herd was getting unmanageable once the last of their grant had expired," Kern said.

At its peak, the Registry had 130 horses. The tribal council voted to put some 40 horses off to auction, stirring strong feelings. In the end, only 25 were auctioned when rebels took away the rest from the preauction site, setting them loose on remote tribal forestland. "It was a very interesting political development," Kern said.

"Some tribal members thought the [auctioneers] were crooks that should be prosecuted. Others thought they were modern warriors who needed to do what they had to do," she said.

Kern, a white Scottish woman, sat among a circle of 300 tribe members of the Joseph Band, a Nez Perce group at the Colville Reservation in Spokane, Wash. Laughter broke throughout the room as Janet realized that "walk in backwards," meant to enter in reverse order, not literally walk backwards. Janet had entered and walked backwards to her seat as the tribe silently watched, fighting to swallow their giggles.

What stuck out to Janet about the tribe was their "reverence and wonderful sense of humor. No one enjoys a joke more than they do," despite their sorrowful history, she said. "I don't know how they remain intact after such widespread loss."

#### A Legacy Recorded

Footage of interviews with tribal elders is going to be donated to the Nez Perce museum in Idaho. These interviews include tribal elders telling stories of growing up and fate.

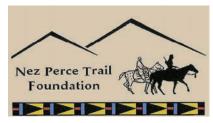
"I don't know if those stories exist except in the memories of those they shared it with," Kern said. "Now that material will be available for their descendants and other tribal members to have access to 100 years after they're gone. ... It may matter a lot someday."

Kern feels that her film will be greeted with ambivalent feelings. "It's a realistic portrait of what happened at a given point in time. Peoples' actions are not always noble, positive, or well thought out."

#### **Related Articles**

• Fallout: Cold War-Era Uranium Mining Leaves a Poisoned Legacy for the Navajo, Part 1 "It's a 21st century story about an ancient culture," she said.

Kern hopes the broadcast of the film will draw attention and support for the Nez Perce registry



# **News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the membership of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation was held on October 14, 2011, at the Wildhorse Resort and Casino in Pendleton, OR.

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation was one of the first groups to hold a meeting in the newly opened hotel. Forty people attended the final program and banquet.

One of the program highlights was the presentation of the Virtual Tour by our designer, Ron Hall.

President Myrna Tovey welcomed the group and presented highlights of the Foundations work this past year.

Special thanks to Melody Miller, Sales Executive for the Wildhorse Resort, for your assistance.

The Teacher Education project, in its third year, had 18 teachers participate, one of the highlights was a 10 mile hike. The class was presented an outstanding classroom work program given by Connie Jacobs, Director of BLM Interpretive Center in Fort Benton, MT. The teachers became students and worked through the classroom project. Tobin Roop Yellowstone National Park Branch Chief of Cultural Resources was as always a great host in welcoming our class to the Park.

The Foundation's web page, <u>www.nezpercrtrail.net</u>, has under gone several changes by our web designer, Jeni Jarvis, to include the Virtual Tour and updated guest book. The site was visited 14,784 times for the first 7 months of 2011.

Have you taken a Virtual Tour of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT)? The Foundation Cost Share project has taken four of the NPNHT Auto Tour brochures and with the help of Google Earth will fly you to all the sites that are depicted in each Auto Tour Brochure. You are invited to take part by logging on the Foundation's web site then clicking on the virtual tour.

The Foundation has a speaker service that presents a short program on the NPNHT. The Presentation includes a 20 minute video "Landscape of History" followed by an overview of what the Foundation has been doing to protect, preserve, and commemorate the story of the Trail, including the "Rest of the Story," the exile, captivity and return of the Nez Perce people to the Pacific Northwest.

The Foundation presented five programs in 2011. The most recent was a presentation to a crowd of 45 people at the

Hagerman Valley Historical Society at the National Park Service National Monument in Hagerman, ID, the home of the Hagerman National Fossil Beds and the Hagerman Horse.

If you would like to have a presentation for your group, please contact the Nez Perce Trail Foundation at 208-940-0053 or e-mail <a href="mailto:executivedirector@nezpercetrail.net">executivedirector@nezpercetrail.net</a>.

This summer on my a visit to Camas Meadows, the Timmer family from the Netherlands, Anja van Eck, Marinke, Arend and Jan, were also visiting the site. I struck up a conversation with the two children, about what took place at Camas Meadows. I gave them a Foundation Trail bandana, which has a Trail map on it. They introduced me to their parents, and they signed up to become members of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. (*see photos on right and below*).

If you see me anywhere on the NPNHT, look out, because you will be invited to join us in protecting, preserving, and commemorating the NPNHT.



Jim Evans, Executive Director, NPTF



Progress Report - Nez Perce NHT - Winter 2012



CAMAS MEADOWS KIOSK



## **News From the National Park Service:**

#### **Big Hole National Battlefield**

The Big Hole Visitor Center opened with no fan fare on November 15, 2011. Why that day? Park staff moved over most of the equipment that day and were

ready to move back into the renovated Visitor Center. Throughout November and December staff continued to make adjustments and get everything set up. While we have not had a lot of visitors during the winter in the Big Hole, those that have come are very impressed. Students from Trapper Creek Job Corps Center and Beaverhead High School have paid us visits and enjoyed the new exhibits. With many ways to present information about what happened here there is something for everyone. There have been a few hiccups along the way and the most serious was a small break in the fire suppression system that dumped about 20 gallons of water on the floor, but that has been repaired and you would never know it happened.



Big Hole Visitor Center renovation complete, winter arrived on January 18, 2012

With the mild winter, by Big Hole standards, we have had more snowshoers and cross country skiers than we did all of last year. If this is something that you would like to do we have snowshoes that can be checked out at the Visitor Center. Throughout the winter season, two trails onto the battlefield are accessible by snowshoe or cross country skis.

A new entryway welcomes visitors and in where they will find new exhibits, maps, artifacts, and a larger movie screen to view the park movie on. A bookstore/gift shop is available. Staff would like to inform everyone that this is still a work in progress. There remains a lot to be completed. An opening celebration is being planned for late spring or early summer, but with visitation being down this is the perfect time to visit the park and get a sneak peek!

The park is getting ready for the spring school season and educators are already inquiring about Coyote Camp, our week long education program, which will start May 21. Students who attend will learn from tribal members about Nez Perce culture and tour the battlefield with National Park Service staff. As we finalize plans we will post them on our teachers section of our web page <a href="http://www.nps.gov/biho/forteachers/index.htm">http://www.nps.gov/biho/forteachers/index.htm</a>. Downloadable reservation forms for all tours are available on the Park website.

Winter hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Directions to Big Hole National Battlefield: from Wisdom, MT, take Montana State Highway 43 west for 10 miles and from Lost Trail Pass junction with U.S. Highway 93, on the Montana and Idaho border, take State Highway 43 east for 16 miles.

#### Do you have a special story or skill that you would like to share?

Big Hole National Battlefield is looking for cultural demonstrators to share their stories and skills, with the public. We are seeking interested participants for Coyote Camp (May 21<sup>st</sup> -May 25<sup>th</sup>) and the Summer Speaker Series, (weekends starting with July 7<sup>th</sup>- August 12<sup>th</sup>). Housing, mileage, per diem, and honorarium will be provided. If you are interested in being a

part of either (or both) of these exciting programs please contact the Park for an application at 406-689-3155 or e-mail

<u>BIHO\_Visitor\_Information@nps.gov</u> . All applications must be received by March 15, 2012.

Steve Black, Superintendent Big Hole National Battlefield

Renovated sales area at the Big Hole National Battlefield Visitor Center January 2012

## **News From the National Park Service:**

#### News from Bear Paw Battlefield

Bear Paw Battlefield in Chinook, MT, hosted 165 people on October 1<sup>st</sup> to commemorate the 134<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle on Snake Creek.

Warm weather provided a beautiful day for the pipe ceremony plus two additional family services for departed relatives. Windless, sunny skies allowed people to gather after the ceremonies and enjoy a lunch featuring traditional foods prepared by Jim and Crystal Fox of Ft. Belknap.

Nez Perce family members were able to walk the battlefield all day and reach locations that are usually snow covered. Family tipi areas, including Ollikut's and Wotollen's, were flagged for the day and Park Rangers guided participants to important battle sites throughout the afternoon.



Stephanie Martin Park Ranger, Bear Paw Battlefield

#### **News from Nez Perce National Historical Park**

Work on the Park's new film continues to move forward. The first draft of the script was presented and reviewed by our Tribal partners, and the film maker is beginning to schedule interviews and plan exterior filming for spring and summer.

The annual Beadwork Bazaar (see photo on right) was held on

December 3, 2011 at the Spalding Visitor Center. Twenty eight vendors displayed crafts, artwork, and food. More than 225 visitors attended the event, which was down slightly from last year but vendors mentioned that sales were up.

Saturday, February 11, 2012, was Lamprey Day at the Spalding Visitor Center. Tribal Elder Elmer Crow talked about the cultural importance of the lamprey and the Tribe's efforts to return them to our streams. There were live lampreys to see and also lots of fun activities for children and adults.



The Park now has a presence on Facebook and Twitter. You can follow us on Twitter at @NezperceNP, @BigHoleNPS, and @BearPawNPS. On Facebook we are DiscoverNezPerceNationalHistoricalPark.

A YouTube channel for NPNHP was also recently launched: www.youtube.com/Nezpercenps

Terry O'Halloran and Marc Blackburn Nez Perce National Historical Park



# **News From the Forest Service** Clearwater National Forest Lolo Pass Visitor Center

Winter season came early to Lolo Pass this year. As of the first of the New Year, we had 45 inches of snow on the ground and are lucky to be one of the few places in the Missoula area with enough snow to ski and snowmobile. In the winter, the Visitor Center features two groomed cross-country ski loops, a marked snowshoe loop, an

Avalanche Beacon Training Park, and access to hundreds of miles of groomed snowmobile trails.

This winter the Visitor Center has started hosting "Full Moon Events" one evening a month. Skiers and snowshoers are invited to come out and recreate by the light of a full moon and then warm up with a cozy fire and warm cup of hot chocolate in our warming hut. Thanks to <u>REI</u>, the Visitor Center now has a limited number of snowshoes that can be checked out for a small donation by visitors, for either a half day or full day excursion. Another new addition this winter is the "Discover Your Northwest – Lolo Pass Visitor Center" Facebook page. Visitors can follow us on Facebook for current weather, snow, ski, parking, and avalanche conditions.

The Clearwater National Forest would like to extend a big thank you to our partner <u>Discover Your Northwest</u> (DYNW). In cooperation with local Missoula Ski-doo dealer, Gull Boats and RV, DYNW purchased two new Ski -doo snowmobiles for the Lolo Pass Visitor Center staff this winter (*see photo on right*). The snowmobiles were purchased with funds raised at the annual "Mountain to Meadow Marathon and 5K Fun Run" that *Discover Your Northwest* organizes at Lolo Pass each June. Colleen Mathisen is the DYNW Lolo Pass Branch Manager as well as the race coordinator. The snowmobiles will be used by Lolo Pass staff to help maintain ski and snowmobile trails, conduct avalanche monitoring, and assist in emergency situations at Lolo Pass.





# FOREST SERVICE USS FINENT OF AGRICULTS

#### **Bitterroot National Forest**

## Bitterroot National Forest employee Deb Gale Receives Bob Marshall Award

By Perry Backus - Ravalli Republic, Wednesday, November 2, 2011

As the program leader for wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, trails and outfitter and guide programs, Deb Gale might just have one of the longest job titles ever on the Bitterroot National Forest.

Over the last decade, it's been her job to take a lead role in managing the nearly half of the 1.6-million acres of national forest in dedicated wilderness.

Along the way, Gale has become actively involved in regional and national wilderness trails issues to the point that even the chief of the Forest Service took notice.

This week, in a special ceremony in Missoula, Gale was presented with the Bob Marshall Award for Individual Champion of Wilderness Stewardship. *Cont. on the next page* 

# FOREST SERVICE USS THENTOF AGRICUS

# **News From the National Forests:**

Each year, the Forest Service selects one person from its 30,000 employees to receive the honor.

The Bitterroot Forest's West Fork District ranger, Dave Campbell, helped write the 12-page nomination letter that caught the eye of the award's keepers. He said the award

was well deserved. "She's one of those superb employees that you never have to worry about them getting something accomplished," Campbell said. "She's always motivated and always willing to work very hard and very smart."

Gale said Wednesday she had no idea that she had even been nominated for the prestigious award.

"I've worked on these for other people before," Gale said. "I know they are quite involved. ... It was really quite an honor for them to put this together for me."



The truth of the matter, Gale said, was the recognition goes far beyond her office door.

"The true honor of this award has to go to all the amazing people who I have working in this shop," Gale said. "They all do an exceptional amount of quality work for wilderness. Some of them have been doing this for 20 years or more. "I accepted this award on their behalf," she said.

Gale started with Forest Service 24 years ago as a wilderness ranger and trail worker.

"In those days when you went to forestry school, you came out usually going into a forester-type job," she said. "I was lucky to have always had a combination of work including recreation, lands, special uses, minerals, wilderness and trails.

"I was always hoping to eventually do what I am doing now where the focus was more wilderness, trails and special uses," she said. "This is my dream job."

Along the way, Gale learned that to get anything worthwhile accomplished, you needed to develop relationships with people. That's why, on her first trip up the 11-mile-long trail to Tin Cup Dam, she hand-carried a homemade pie to the folks waiting there to talk about the future of the wilderness dam.

"Time and again, Deb's ability to build trust with people from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests has helped bridge the communications gap between wilderness advocacy and dam owners," said her nomination letter.

Gale said she knew that getting people to talk was an important first step.

"There are a lot of differences in how people view these wilderness areas," she said. "All of them have a different opinion on how they should be managed. We're all in this together. We have to find a way to make it work."

There have been plenty of challenges along the way.

"I've lost a lot of sleep over some of the compromises we have had to make," Gale said. "I hope in the long run that it's made a difference. I believe it has already in many cases."

Gale helped in forming the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Foundation, providing critical support by offering resources and logistical help. Today, the foundation is well established and has provided more than 13,000 hours of volunteer work worth \$275,000. She co-chaired the Chief's Wilderness Advisory Group for three years starting in 2005 and played a leadership role on management teams for the three wilderness contained in the Bitterroot Forest.

She's dealt directly with fighting noxious weeds, developing education programs and providing trail maintenance on a forest that has been heavily impacted by wildfires.

"Deb has provided outstanding leadership on the Bitterroot National Forest for one of the nationally pre-eminent wilderness programs," wrote Dave Bull, the Forest Service's Northern Region's director of recreation, wilderness, lands, heritage, and minerals. "Deb is known throughout the region for her dedication to her employees and her ability to balance the needs of the public and the resource."

Bill Goslin, the Bitterroot Forest's wilderness ranger, had the last word in Gale's nomination letter.

"As a program manager, Deb's job is to preserve the wilderness resource by working with other people," Goslin wrote. "Toward that end, she is one of the most gracious and caring persons around."

By Perry Backus at 363-3300 or pbackus@ravallirepublic.com

Deb has assisted the Nez Perce National Historic Trail with numerous projects over the years. The staff of the NPNHT is pleased that she has been honored for her hard work and dedication.

# **New Faces Along the Trail:**

#### Marissa Guenther Selected as BLM Archaeologist

Marissa Guenther recently came aboard as the Archaeologist for the BLM Upper Snake Field Office in Idaho Falls, ID.

Marissa received her B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Oregon (UO) in 2005. She continued her studies in graduate school at California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB). Her thesis research explores the feasibility of an 8,000 year old communal bison drive at the Wasden site in southern Idaho.

While in Oregon and California, Marissa worked full-time as an archaeologist for the research wing of the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History and the Center of Archaeological Research at CSUB. Marissa had the opportunity to participate in several archaeological investigations including inventories, test



Photo: Marissa, doing field work

excavations, and data recovery projects in Oregon, California, and Idaho. Marissa supervised several students in the process of digitizing records at the California (State Historic Preservation Office) SHPO and set the stage for the creation of a cultural predictive model in collaboration with local California Tribes.

Since 2009, Marissa has worked for the BLM. She spent a year in the Burley Field Office BLM supervising a crew in the recordation the Oregon and California National Historic Trails within the Twin Falls District. She developed a standardized way of recording the trail segments according to Federal Trail Data Standards. Marissa then moved to Spokane, WA, becoming a member of the District cultural team and was focused on cultural program work. She landed in Idaho Falls in July of 2011, taking over for Richard Hill.

Marissa enjoys reading, road biking, painting, skiing, and playing tennis. Marissa is enthusiastic about beginning a long career as a BLM archaeologist in a such beautiful place with a rich cultural heritage.

#### **Patti Johnston Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests**

Patti Johnston arrived on the Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests a little over a year ago. She is serving as the Recreation, Wilderness, Trails, and Rivers Program Leader for both Forests. She moved from the Flathead National Forest where she held the same title for two years. Prior to that, she worked as the Recreation Resource Assistant on the Wisdom and Wise River Ranger Districts of the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forests. While at Wisdom/Wise River, she coordinated the Clark's Return Route Celebration held at Hogan Cabin for the Lewis & Clark Centennial Celebration and worked with the Nez Perce Tribe who partnered on a trail construction project that added a trail route option for visitors traveling on the Nez Perce Historic Trail in Trail Creek on the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest.

Patti, has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA, and continued her studies in Range Management at New Mexico State University. Patti started out with the Forest Service working as a wilderness ranger on the Gila National Forest in New Mexico in 1979. She moved to Choteau, MT, in 1988 where she worked as a resource assistant on the Rocky Mountain District of the Lewis & Clark National Forest. She worked with counterparts on adjacent districts and volunteer partners in the management of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. *Cont on next page* 

# **New Faces Along the Trail:**

In 1998, Patti married Tom Osen who shares her enthusiasm for the outdoors and backcountry. While Patti was on the Flathead, work had kept Tom and Patti living separately, he in Dillon and Patti in Kalispell, MT. They are now residing together at Slate Creek Ranger Station where Tom is serving as the Salmon River District Ranger. Patti works out of the Nez Perce Supervisors Office in Grangeville, ID.



Photo: Tom and Patti

Tom and Patti have raised two quarterhorse/morgan mules and own four saddle horses and a team of Belgian mules. They round out their family with their companions Misty and Bretta, an Australian Shepherd and a Labrador retriever. They enjoy hunting fishing, horseback riding and packing, and driving their mule team. While residing in the Salmon River Country they have added quail and chukar hunting, steelhead fishing, and rafting to their list of outdoor interests.

#### Al Hilshey Serving the Lolo National Forest



Al Hilshey is the Acting Natural Resource Specialist for the Missoula Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. Al is a 2004 graduate of The University of Montana with a degree in Environmental Studies. He has worked for the Forest Service since 2004 in Recreation and the Natural Resources management program.

The Missoula Ranger District includes 15.5 miles of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. Three campgrounds, three picnic areas, and multiple trailheads directly support use of the trail. The Fort Fizzle Historic Site and multiple interpretive sites pay tribute to the flight of the Nez Perce and also recognize the historical significance of the trail.

Be Safe in Your Winter Travels Along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail The Staff of the NPNHT want your experience along the Trail this Winter to be a safe one.

Please take a few minutes to review the Trail's Safety and Ethics Website before you begin your journey:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/ethics

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www.fs.usda.gov/nphnt

#### Winter Scenes Along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail

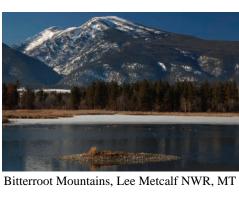
Images by Roger Peterson, US Forest Service



Skiing at Chief Joseph Pass, MT



Fresh snow at Fort Fizzle, near Lolo, MT





Frost, Nespelem, WA



Nez Perce National Historic Trail 12730 Highway 12 Orofino ID 83544





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